BABY & Me

Chapter 52

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*When you have a hand like this it's better not to call riichi, but Seuchi is too excited.

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YOU TOLD SOMEBODY THEY HAD AN ANGELIC SMILE. WHO WAS IT?!
GLARE
...
HUH?
?
PFFT
SEI-ICHI...
WOMEN ARE SO INSECURE!!
SNAP
HOW STUPID!!
ARE YOU JEALOUS? YOU'RE JEALOUS!! OF A DREAM?!
GAHAHAHA
...
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
WHAT FOR?!
WHAT DID YOU DO, SEIICHI? HURRY UP AND APOLOGIZE.
SNK
...
YOU WERE SHOUTING THINGS LIKE, "SUANKO!" AND "HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO YOUR FATHER?!" IN YOUR SLEEP LAST NIGHT. THEN YOU PUSHED ME OFF THE BED
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU LOVE GAMBLING MORE THAN YOU LOVE TAICHI AND ME.
SEI-ICHI..
...TO KNOCK ME OUT OF BED..
I KNOW HE'S HAVING A BAD DREAM, BUT..
UNH
HOW RUDE!!

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Author's Note Part 2

In December of 1994 I went back to visit my parents. When I lived at home, we had a tomcat named Chibaya but he disappeared

He was smart

HEH HEH HEH HEH

He was big and dignified, sort of like Hiro.

When I went back home that year, there was a new female cat named Mitaro. My sister said that she was half tortoiseshell and half Persian

MEOW

Not very smart

Like this picture, her face and spots were like a tortoiseshell cat but she had a fat butt like a Persian. Her eyes were a pretty gray

Maybe you're thinking, "So what?" I

WHY'D YOU HESITATE, THEN?

TMP

OF COURSE I AM.

TICK TOCK

CREAK

WE HAVEN'T EATEN OUT IN A WHILE.

HEE HEE

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD CALL HIM NOW.

GA-GA

Sun bathing

THE LUNCH RUSH SHOULD BE OVER BY NOW.

.TO YOUR FACE?

WHAT HAPPENED

...

HUH?

WHUp

SHWAK

SKREECH

AREN'T YOU GOING TO WORK, SE!!CHI?

...

IT'S NOTHING. JUST RUN ALONG TO SCHOOL.

BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED ME OVER.

WHEN ?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED! THIS IS YOUR FAULT FOR SMILING AT ME LIKE THAT.

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H-HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
Don't woman
WHOA!
I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING FOR YOU.
SEI-ICHI...
DO
OH
WHAT?!
AHA!
I FORGOT TO THROW IT AWAY!
GRR
A RED PENCIL AND A LOSING RACE TICKET!
SO, YOU DID GO TO THE HORSE RACES!!
NO. HE SCHED-ULED IT SOME TIME AGO.
A DAY OFF? ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SOME TIME AGO?
HE HAS THE DAY OFF TODAY.
WHAT?
OH
SEI-ICHI?
SEI-ICHI!!
AND HE NEVER TOLD ME!
HE SCHED-ULED IT SOME TIME AGO?
CHING.
ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?!
THE MONEY I SPEND ON GAMBLING COMES OUT OF MY PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY
LISTEN, I WORK HARD AT MY JOB
IF YOU HAVE MONEY TO GAMBLE AWAY, WHY DON'T YOU EVER BUY ME A PRESENT?!
WASN'T TODAY LOVELY?
AH... THIS TEA IS GOOD.
QUIT IT, WILL YOU?
SHAK
I'M HOME
DARN. I HAVE NO LUCK.
GRR... I'VE HAD IT NOW!!

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YOU'RE BRINGING YOUR FAMILY PROBLEMS INTO MY HOUSE AGAIN?
THERE WAS A LITTLE PROBLEM.
I'M GONNA STAY WITH YOU FOR A WHILE.
HI, DAD.
IS SEIICHI HERE?
WHY..
GET OUT.
WHAT ?
...
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
BUT... THIS IS MY HOME !!
YOU HEARD ME!! I'M TELLING YOU TO GET OUT!!
I MEAN, I HARDLY DO ANYTHING I WANT TO DO ANYMORE.
I JUST WENT TO THE HORSE RACES. I DIDN'T HURT ANYBODY.
I BET
YOU'LL MAKE ME THROW UP..
STOP.
AND HERE I LOVE YOU SO MUCH THAT I EVEN DREAM ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE HEART LESS, HARUMI
THEY REALLY ARE IMPOS-SIBLE.
WOMEN
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT ?
SLAM
ITTAI

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Da..
MAYBE IT'S AN APOLOGY. OR MAYBE IT SAYS HE LOVES ME.
HE SHOULD JUST TELL ME IN PERSON.
ALL RIGHT
THEN WHY DON'T YOU COME IN AND WAIT?
OH.
BUT
..DAD DOESN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT
SOFTLY
HUH?
TAKUYA, YOUR DAD WORKS REALLY HARD. IF HE WANTED TO RELAX BY PLAYING PACHINKO OR BETTING ON HORSES, WOULD YOU GET MAD AT HIM?
...
DON'T YOU KNOW? MAYBE THAT'S THE PROBLEM
..REALLY DO SOME-THING WRONG?
DID I..
SIGH
LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS.
HARUMI, DON'T YOU DO ANYTHING FOR FUN?
OH?
Oh..
WHA..
WHA..
THAT JERK.
I did nothing wrong. I'm not apologizing. Bleah!
Seiichi
AND, HE TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
YEP
WHAT?
A LETTER?
THAT IDIOT SENT YOU TO GET HIS CLOTHES FOR TOMORROW?
Gaa-ga-
SO?
WHAT'S THIS?!

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THEN YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHOSE ATTENTION SHE'S CRAVING
...
MY MOM WOULD BE HAPPY TO LOOK AFTER TAICHI FOR HER, IF SHE'D ASK
... TAKING CARE OF TAICHI
SHE STAYS HOME EVERY DAY..
AH...
AH...
YEAH, WELL, I'M TALLER THAN YOU.
YOUR TROUSERS ARE TOO LONG FOR ME, HARUMI
GROWN-UPS ALWAYS BEAT AROUND THE BUSH..
HUH?
..MINO-RU
THAT'S GROWN-UP TALK.

READ IT TO ME.
OH, MAN... AND SHE GAVE ME THESE SHORT SHORTS AND TRUNKS TOO!!
IT'S ONE OF DAD'S HORRIBLE SHIRTS!
She could've at least sent me some briefs.
OH, AND THIS IS HER REPLY
Shorts
Trunks
THE NEXT DAY.
LISTEN, SEIICHI ..
I DID SOME THINKING YESTERDAY.
THAT WITCH !!
AAH!
A CHILD SHOULDN'T READ WORDS LIKE THIS.
censored

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SHE'S NOT? WELL, WHERE'D SHE GO?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT NEVER MIND THAT APOLOGIZE TO HER ALREADY.
IS TOMOKO THERE?
OH MOM?
WELL, HURRY UP THEN!
SEI-ICHI!
AYE-AYE, SIR.
I GUESS GROWN-UPS JUST CAN'T DO THAT.
HUH?
BUT IT SEEMS KIND OF CHILDISH TO ME
HE SHOULD JUST APOLO-GIZE.
EGG.
WHY DON'T THEY JUST SAY WHAT THEY MEAN?
KLAK
HMPH!
I'LL LET HER KNOW THAT YOU CALLED WHEN SHE GETS HOME.
NEVER MIND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL HER.
AND SHE'S VERY PRETTY. SHE COULD'VE HAD ANY MAN SHE WANTED.
LISTEN
NO WAY
YOU COULD BE LUCKY WHEN YOU FOUND THAT GIRL SEIICHI ONE IN A MILLION
...
CASE Le Poire
...COMPLI-CATED.
IT'S SO...
SALE ON SUMMER WEAR
SEIICHI ...
YEAH.
AND I WAS THINKING OF TAKING HER OUT TONIGHT
MAKE A BIG BATCH OF ONION SAUCE.
OKAY.
SEIICHI, THE LUNCH CROWD'S ON ITS WAY.
THE ROLLED CABBAGE IS READY TO GO.
KLANK
SHE'S LONELY?
AW, WHAT DOES THAT HARUMI KNOW?

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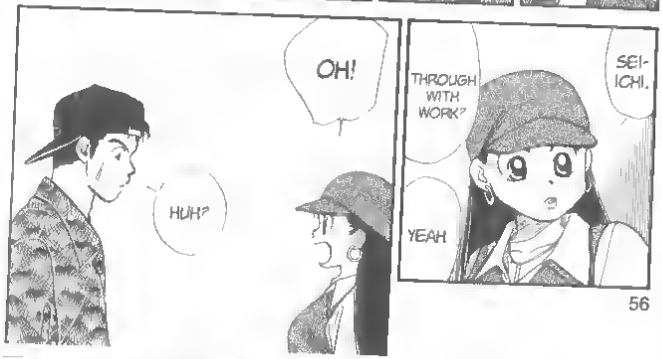

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BUT I JUST GOT OFF WORK.
I LOOK LIKE AN UNEMPLOYED BUM
AND ME..
DON'T BE SILLY!
SO?
..WELL, THAT HE'S GOT A GOOD JOB.
THE WAY HE WAS DRESSED SAID...
SEIICHI, PLEASE
YOU'RE BEING RIDICULOUS.
TOMOKO, THAT GUY..
..IS IN LOVE WITH YOU!
YOU'RE TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS!!
NOBODY WOULD THINK THAT!
..DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW MEN ARE!!
WOMEN ...
THREE DAYS? YOU NEVER TOLD ME.
WELL, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY OFF, EITHER.
WELL, OUR CLASS REUNION IS IN THREE DAYS.
"SEE YOU SOON"?
WELL, SO LONG, MOCHIZUKI.
SEE YOU SOON
OKAY
I DON'T NORMALLY WEAR UGLY SHIRTS.
...
IT'S JUST THAT-- WELL--THAT GUY...
OF COURSE NOT!
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
HE...
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL CALLED ME.
OLD HABITS DIE HARD
WHY'D YOU LET HIM CALL YOU MOCHIZUKI?
I SURE DIDN'T WANT TO MEET UP WITH YOU UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES

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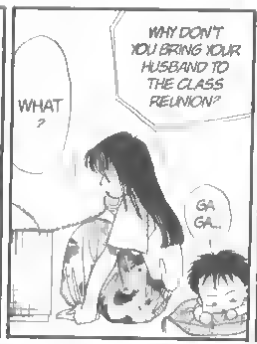

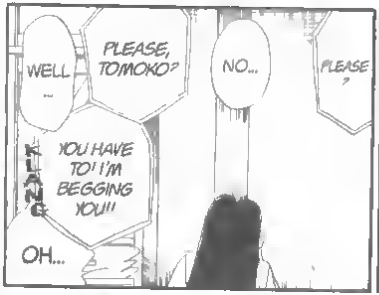

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I WANT YOU...
...TO COME TO MY CLASS REUNION WITH SEIICHI.
WHAT? BUT...
LOOK, I KNOW SEIICHI WON'T COME BY HIMSELF.
...I'D BE A COMPLETE OUTSIDER!
BUT IF YOU CAME, TOO...
NO.. NO WAY
W-WHY..
...SUCH AN ELABORATE SCHEME?
IT'D BE REALLY WEIRD...
...IF I WENT
IT SEEMS TO ME
THAT NO MATTER WHAT SEIICHI SAYS, HE'LL DO WHATEVER TOMOKO TELLS HIM TO IN THE END.
SHE SEEMS TO KNOW HOW TO GET TO HIM.
SOMETIMES...
...THE WAYS OF GROWN-UPS ARE MUCH TOO COMPLICATED FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND
IT WOULD BE TOO WEIRD!

Chapter 52 / The End

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